

New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services Vaccine Preventable Disease Program

New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJiIS) Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What is the New Jersey Immunization Information System (NJiIS)?

A: A free, confidential, population-based online system that collects and consolidates vaccination data for New Jersey's children and adults. The NJiIS is the official Immunization Registry per the Statewide Immunization Registry Act - NJAC 8:57, subchapter 3, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. (P.L. 2004, c. 138).

Q: What is the purpose of NJiIS?

A: NJiIS provides current recommended immunization schedules for infants, adolescents and adults. It consolidates immunization information from all providers into one record to provide an accurate immunization assessment and eliminates the use of manual vaccine administration logs.

NJiIS assists state and federal agencies with population assessments in the event of a preventable disease outbreak and helps communities assess their immunization coverage and identify pockets of need.

Q: Who can enroll as an authorized user of NJiIS?

A: Any health care provider, child care center, school, college or university, health plan, billing and practice management vendor, state or local public health and social service programs, and agencies or designated agents thereof may participate in NJiIS.

For health care practitioners (HCP), there is one more very important reason to enroll in NJiIS—A HCP that immunizes children less than seven (7) years of age is required by State regulation to enroll as an authorized user of NJiIS and begin online reporting of vaccinations by December 31, 2011. Mandatory participation is stipulated in New Jersey Administrative Code, N.J.A.C. 8:57-3.16. The New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services (NJDHSS) will not be extending the enrollment deadline.

Q: What if a HCP who immunizes children less than seven (7) years of age does not enroll in NJiIS by the December 31, 2011 deadline?

A: Failure to register as a NJiIS site and authorized user and commence online reporting of vaccinations by December 31, 2011 or HCPs who knowingly enter false information into the NJiIS will be subject to suspension or revocation of access to the NJiIS. Non-compliant providers who are participants in the Vaccines for Children (VFC) Program will not be allowed to continue participation in the VFC Program.

Additionally, the Department of Health and Senior Services may issue a written notification and warning to a HCP. Notification of the violation will also be sent to the State Board of Medical Examiners or State Board of Nursing as appropriate; and/or to the appropriate hospital medical director or administrator.

Q: Whose responsibility is it to enter the immunization records into NJIIS?

A: It is the responsibility of the HCP-not the entity in which he/she operates- to assure that the data are entered and sent to NJIIS. The HCP shall report to the NJIIS the administration of a vaccine to a child less than seven years of age within 30 days of administration.

Q: Should only HCP that vaccinate children less than 7 years of age enroll?

A: The NJIIS is not just for kids. The NJIIS can be used for entering all vaccine doses administered regardless of the patient's age. Clinicians who administer vaccines to adolescents and adults are strongly encouraged to become NJIIS users. By using NJIIS for all patients, regardless of age, you can have a single source for all immunizations administered.

Q: How are patients enrolled in NJIIS?

A: Since 2004, all children born in New Jersey, on or after January 1, 1998, are automatically enrolled through the electronic birth certificate. Ensure that parents are provided a copy of the NJIIS Informational Brochure "*Immunization Registry Brochure—Your Child's Best Shot*" https://njiis.nj.gov/njiis/docs/njiis_your_childs_bestshot.pdf before or upon the newborn's discharge from the facility. If the parent(s) of the newborn decline NJIIS participation, they will need to complete the "*Declination of Newborn Automatic Enrollment*" form. You can access this document on the NJIIS web site: <https://njiis.nj.gov> and click on *NJIIS forms*. Retain a copy of the signed and dated "*Declination of Newborn Automatic Enrollment*" form as a part of the permanent medical record of the newborn.

Q: My patient is not enrolled in NJIIS because he/she was born out of state or born before January 1, 1998. How do I enroll my patient?

A: Anyone born before January 1, 1998 (that includes adults of all ages) may enroll in NJIIS voluntarily by completing a "*NJIIS Consent to Participate*" form, which can be found at <https://njiis.nj.gov> under *NJIIS Forms*. Ensure that the parent/patient is provided a copy of the NJIIS Informational Brochure "*Immunization Registry Brochure—Your Child's Best Shot*" https://njiis.nj.gov/njiis/docs/njiis_your_childs_bestshot.pdf and keep the signed "*NJIIS Consent to Participate*" form as part of the patient's medical record.

Q: How will NJIIS benefit a medical practice?

A: NJIIS:

- Provides access to a child's complete and accurate immunization history;
- Produces a child's official immunization record;
- Consolidates immunization information from all health care providers;
- Reduces over vaccination of new patients;
- Generates reminder/recall notices;

- Manages and maintains vaccine inventory;
- Provides results of preventive health screenings;
- Produces the Universal Child Health Record;
- Reduces paperwork and staff time spent obtaining records and responding to record requests;
- Ensures proper reimbursement by tracking administered vaccines;
- Runs reports and tracks Healthcare Effectiveness Data and Information Set (HEDIS) measures; and
- Qualifies as a meaningful use measure for the Medicare and Medicaid Electronic Health Records (EHR) Incentive Program.

Q: How will NJIIS benefit a health plan and participating providers?

A: NJIIS:

- Improves the quality of care for beneficiaries;
- Increases the health plans immunization HEDIS rates;
- Reduces or eliminates the need for on site visits to monitor immunization rates;
- Generates timely immunization reports; and
- Reduces costs associated with over vaccinations and serology testing.

Q: How does NJIIS work?

A: NJIIS is a web-enabled application accessible through the internet. Participating HCPs can input and retrieve immunization information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. NJIIS also offers an electronic interface option with EHR.

Q: How do I get started?

A: Visit the NJIIS web site: <https://njiis.nj.gov> and click on *NJIIS Forms*. Complete the "*NJIIS Enrollment Request for New Sites*" form and fax or mail to the regional trainer for your county (list below):

NJIIS Training Opportunities

Contact Person	Contact Information	Counties Served
Joann Jablonski Gateway MCHC	Phone: 973-268-2280 X 105 Fax: 866-894-9183 Email: jjablonski@gatewaymch.org	Essex, Morris, Sussex, Union, and Warren
Arpita Jindani Hudson Perinatal MCHC	Phone: 201-876-8900 X 236 Fax: 201-876-2670 Email: ajindani@hudsonperinatal.org	Bergen, Hudson, and Passaic
Patricia Kaiser Central Jersey Family Health Consortium	Phone: 732-363-5400 X 18 Fax: 732-363-5554 Email: pkaiser@cjfhc.org	Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex, Monmouth, Ocean, and Somerset
Barbara Alston Southern MCHC	Phone: 856-665-6000 X 337 Fax: 856-665-7711 Email: balston@snjpc.org	Atlantic, Burlington, Camden, Cape May, Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem

Q: Will I be liable for the information I submit to the NJIIS?

A: No, as set forth in New Jersey Administrative Code, (N.J.A.C. 8:57-3.21): "Any authorized user submitting, providing, or otherwise transmitting vaccine or preventive health screening information to the NJIIS in good faith to further the purposes of promoting public health, providing patient care, or fostering regulatory compliance, in accordance with the provisions of N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. ... , shall not be held liable for divulging confidential registrant information."

Additionally, "Any authorized user reporting, retrieving, or disclosing information relating to the NJIIS pursuant to N.J.S.A. 26:4-131 et seq. ... shall be immune from liability for any error or inaccuracy contained in the NJIIS information and any consequences thereof as set forth at N.J.S.A. 26:4-135(b)."

Q: What about the HIPAA privacy rule, is NJIIS HIPAA compliant?

A: Yes, NJIIS is recognized as a public health entity and is consistent with the privacy and confidentiality principles set forth in the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA).

Q: Will the EHR that I use be compatible with NJIIS?

A: Many practices are already using EHRs that interface with the NJIIS to report immunization data. The NJIIS Interface System has been defined to provide a standard mechanism for the batch transfer of information between NJIIS and heterogeneous systems. The batch files can be submitted electronically via the NJIIS website or via SFTP server. Each facility using an interface may submit their files on a different schedule.

You will be able to perform the following NJIIS transactions through the submission of electronic files:

- Add a new patient to NJIIS.
- Add and delete immunizations for a patient.

Q: What do I do to establish an electronic interface with NJIIS?

A: To establish an electronic interface with NJIIS you will need to visit the NJIIS home page: <https://njiis.nj.gov>. Click on *NJIIS Documents*. Print and review “*NJIIS Interface Process Flow Document*”. Download the “*Interface Specifications for HL7 Message Type*” document and study it with your EHR vendor. Click on the “*NJIIS Interface Enrollment Request Form*” link and fill out the online electronic form. Please note that NJIIS will only accept this form electronically.

Please email njiis.support@doh.state.nj.us if you have questions pertaining to establishing an interface.

Q: I just met the December 31, 2011 deadline or have not yet enrolled in NJIIS. What is going to happen?

A: NJDHSS is processing all requests in the order in which they were received. Due to a large volume of last minute enrollments, training and NJIIS interface connections are backlogged. If you have not yet enrolled, please do so now and get on a waiting list for training to complete the enrollment process. NJDHSS has provided adequate notice of the enrollment deadline to all HCPs and is working to complete all pending and new enrollments.

Q: Does use of the NJIIS qualify as meaningful use for Medicare and Medicaid EHR Incentive Programs?

A: For specific information on meaningful use and NJIIS please visit the NJDHSS web site at: <http://www.state.nj.us/health/meaningfuluse/index.shtml>

In order to satisfy the Public Health Meaningful Use Criteria, eligible hospitals and providers should deliver information in one of the following areas to NJDHSS:

- Immunization Reporting (Providers and Hospitals)
- Syndromic Surveillance (Hospitals –Emergency Department Data only)
- Electronic Laboratory Reporting (Hospitals only)

Eligible providers will have to satisfy the Immunization Reporting criterion. Eligible hospitals may choose any of the 3 above criteria.

Immunization Registries Data Submission is an eligible professional meaningful use measure. The objective is to have the capability to submit electronic data to immunization registries or immunization information system and actual submission according to applicable law and practice. Please visit the NJDHSS web site at http://www.state.nj.us/health/meaningfuluse/imm_reporting_data_faq.shtml for specific information on NJIIS and meaningful use.

Q: What EHRs have interfaced successfully with the NJIIS?

A: As of December 2011, the following interfaces have been created from the following EHR systems (listed alphabetically):

- Allscripts
- Aprima Medical
- athenaNet
- Cerner Corp
- CureMD
- DigiDMS
- eClinicalWorks
- e-mds
- GE Centricity

- GlaceEMR
- gMed
- Greenway Medical
- iPatientCare
- MDRhtyhm
- Medcom
- Meditab
- MEDITECH
- Meridian
- MieWeb
- Office Practicum
- Pediatric Care
- Practice Fusion
- PrognoCIS
- Sage Intergy
- St Barnabas
- STI
- SuccessEHS
- SuiteMed
- Sunrise Acute

A number of other EHRs are pending interface development with NJIIS. Please visit the NJDHSS web site at http://www.state.nj.us/health/meaningfuluse/imm_reporting_data_faq.shtml for the most current list of EHRs.

Q. What do I do if the EHR I use or am contemplating purchasing does not have an interface with NJIIS?

A. Providers are responsible for manually entering the data directly into NJIIS until an interface is established.

Q: Who do I contact for additional information?

A: For more information visit NJIIS online at <https://njiis.nj.gov> and click “*NJIIS Training Opportunities*” and contact the Maternal and Child Health Consortium Regional Trainer in your county or call the Vaccine Preventable Disease Program at (609) 826-4860.

Q: Who do I contact for technical information?

For NJIIS technical assistance, you may contact the help desk at 1-800-883-0059 or 609-984-0224. You may also email the help desk at helpdesk@doh.state.nj.us